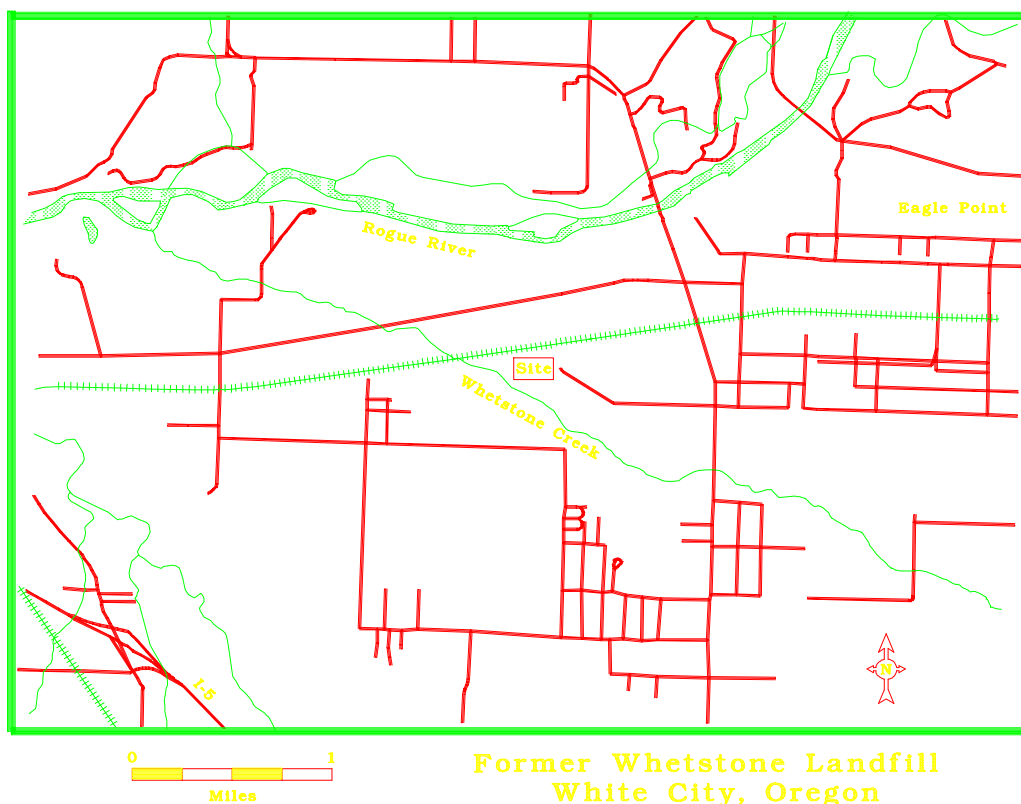


Brownfield Assessment of the Former Whetstone Landfill White City, Oregon

Project Overview

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Department) Western Region Site Assessment Program under a Cooperative Agreement with EPA, conducted an assessment of the former Whetstone Landfill. The former Whetstone Landfill is located west of White City, Oregon along Antelope Road approximately 7 miles north of Medford, Oregon. The site is part of a 200 acre parcel of land owned by the City of Medford. It is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Rogue River along Whetstone Creek. The landfill was in operation from 1940 to 1955 as a military landfill. It continued as a municipal landfill until the mid 1960's. Most recently the area has been used for cattle grazing. The industrial park had not been selected by a large manufacturer due to the presence of the landfill.

The assessment was conducted by the Department under a pilot Brownfield project with EPA funding. The purpose of the pilot was to determine the demand for, and potential effectiveness of an expanded Brownfield evaluation program and to assist redevelopment efforts at the local level. Brownfield sites are vacant or under-utilized commercial or industrial properties with known or perceived contamination of hazardous substances that has affected the sale and/or redevelopment of the site.



What We Did

The project began with a scoping meeting in November 1996 attended by the City of Medford, the Department, Oregon Economic Development Department and a prospective purchaser. This was followed by a site visit in February 1997 and sampling events in February and April 1997. The final report was completed in June 1997. Surface water, sediments, and subsurface soil samples were collected from several locations within the landfill and Whetstone Creek. Groundwater samples were also collected.

What We Found

The investigation was focused on accessible areas of the former landfill close to the active disposal area, not covered by concrete rubble. Two areas of buried ash were found to contain Dioxin at levels above industrial cleanup standards. One sample was collected from a thick layer of waste suspected to be log deck waste. The sample contained benzo(b)fluoranthene, also above industrial cleanup standards.

The Next Step

Due to the presence of contamination in buried ash and log deck waste, further investigative work is recommended before any decisions regarding cleanup and future development of the property can be made. Additional soil sampling is needed to determine the extent of contamination already identified.

After the contamination is addressed, development of the portions of the site outside of the landfill active disposal area may be possible. It is not recommended that development occur within this area due to potential stability and contamination concerns.

For more information or a copy of the report, please contact:

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